

I. Preparation of Justification for Political Approval of Overflight of Cuba.

1. Prior to the Bay of Pigs and immediately thereafter, the Committee On Overhead Reconnaissance did not motivate the initiation of the overflight of Cuba. The initiative came from Clandestine Operation. However, provision was made for the inclusion of the requirements of the intelligence community in the planning of the overflight.

2. Beginning in _____, the COMOR recommended monthly coverage of Cuba and specified the targets to be covered by priority groups. It required about two missions to obtain coverage of all, or most all, of the targets. On occasion, as in the case of the months of _____ and _____, there was a requirement for more frequent coverage of certain targets. This resulted in appropriate requirements and justifications and consequent approval. The COMOR justifications and requirements for approval of coverage of targets is documented in COMOR documents and minutes.

II. Selection of Targets for Coverage.

3. Within the framework of the determinations of the COMOR a Working Group on Targets was responsible for specific targets selections. All intelligence interests were represented. This group met as soon as the preliminary report was available on a mission and revision in targeting was prepared. These targets were submitted directly to Operations in OSA/DDR/CIA which, the office responsible for operational planning.

III.4. Simultaneously with the designation of targets, the Working Group identified the particular information needed in order to give the photographic ~~interpretation~~ interpreters maximum guidance. During the summer of 1962, the Working Group determined to institute a card system which had long been applicable in regard to another type of reconnaissance. This system was based upon establishing a card for each target which would record briefly the gist of information available from all sources and which was updated based upon returns from photography as well as other sources. The cards, when distributed to the members and to the National Photographic Interpretation Center, permitted all parties to proceed on the same understanding and to ~~keep~~ keep up to date. This card system was in being and the procedure actively ~~follow~~ followed during the critical period ~~since~~ since August 1962. Accordingly, any requirements originated by any agency had maximum attention both in terms of collection and of readout, subject, of course, to the play of operational factors such as weather or malfunction and within the limitation of flights permitted.